

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stephen Roylance on April 9, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title, line 1, "beads" has been substituted by --particles--.

In the title, line 3, "beads" has been substituted by --particles--.

Claims 17 - 36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed amount of polymerization initiator in Claims 17- 36 . The closest prior art of record, JP 1-284536 to Takamasa et al., teaches an amount of initiator outside the range set forth in the instant claims. In their decision on the instant case on September 28, 2009, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences held that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not depart from the teachings of Takamasa et al. by optimizing the amounts of initiator disclosed because doing so would run counter to the direction and guidance of the reference (Page 15).

The new claims present in this application and amendments to the specification filed after the decision rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences fix formal matters and correct the mistranslation of particles, formerly referred to as "beads" throughout the specification. New limitations present depend from claims

which are otherwise identical to those in which the examiner was reversed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and are entirely supported by the original specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA RIOJA whose telephone number is (571)270-3305. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM E.S.T..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on (571)272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit: 1796

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/MAR/
April 10, 2010